

PERSONAL DIGITAL ASSISTANTS AND DIGITAL PROJECTORS

Personal digital assistants													
Details	Last month's position	First reviewed	Price (ex VAT)	Warranty	Dimensions (width x depth x height)	Weight	Operating system	Processor	RAM	Screen size (pixels)	Internal modem	Battery	Cable port
<b>1</b> Toshiba Pocket PC e570 01932 828 828 www.toshiba.co.uk	1	Jan 02	£399	2-year	76x124x18mm	180g	PocketPC 2002	206MHz StrongARM	64MB	240x320 colour	N	lithium polymer	USB
<b>2</b> Palm m505 020 7365 9820 www.palm.com/europe	2	Aug 01	£339	1-year	79x114x10mm	128g	Palm OS 4.0	33MHz Dragonball VZ	8MB	160x160 colour	N	lithium polymer	USB
<b>3</b> Compaq iPaq H3850 0845 270 4000 www.compaq.co.uk	3	Mar 02	£449	1-year	84x133x16mm	190g	PocketPC 2002	206MHz StrongARM	64MB	240x320 colour	Y	lithium polymer	USB
<b>4</b> Palm m125 020 7365 9820 www.palm.com/europe	4	Jan 02	£170	1-year	78x122x22mm	151g	Palm OS 4.0	33MHz Dragonball VZ	8MB	160x160 mono	N	AAA	USB
<b>5</b> Handspring Visor Pro 020 7309 0134 www.hercules-uk.com	5	Dec 01	£229	2-year	76x112x18mm	161g	Palm OS 3.5.2H3	33MHz Dragonball VZ	16MB	160x160 mono	N	lithium polymer	USB

Flat-panel displays												
Details	Last month's position	First reviewed	Price (ex VAT)	Warranty	Brightness (ANSI lumens)	Lamp life	Lamp power	Replacement bulb	Weight	Max resolution	Dimensions (width x depth x height)	
<b>1</b> NEC VT45 0645 404 020 www.nec.co.uk	<b>NEW</b>	May 02	£1,965	3-year	1,000	1,000/2,000hrs	135/100W UHP	£291	2.5kg	800x600 pixels	299x207x90mm	
<b>2</b> Epson EMP-505 0800 220 546 www.epson.co.uk	1	Jun 01	£2,499	2-year	1,100	1,500hrs	150W UHP	£389	2.7kg	800x600 pixels	267x213x72mm	
<b>3</b> CTX PS-5100 01923 810800 www.ctxeurope.com	2	Dec 01	£1,275	2-year	1,000	4,000hrs	120W UHP	£199	3.5kg	800x600 pixels	325x275x92mm	
<b>4</b> NEC MultiSync LT155 0645 404 020 www.nec.co.uk	3	May 01	£3,400	3-year	1,200/900	1,000/2,000hrs	130/110W UHP	£281	2.2kg	1,024x768 pixels	207x266x63mm	
<b>5</b> Epson EMP-800 0800 220 546 www.epson.co.uk	4	Feb 02	£3,799	2-year	1,500	1,500hrs	200W	£395 UHP	4.2kg	1,024x768 pixels	349x274x104mm	

PERSONAL DIGITAL ASSISTANTS

**1** Toshiba Pocket PC e570

Although Toshiba came late to the PDA (personal digital assistant) market, its decision to wait appears to have paid off, and the e570 has held the top spot in our chart for five months. The Pocket PC 2002 operating system offers a number of refinements. For example, Palm's handwriting recognition system now offers a input method similar to Graffiti, as well as cursive handwriting recognition. Internally, you couldn't ask for more – there's a 206MHz Intel StrongARM processor, a massive 64MB of RAM and a 240x320 16bit colour screen. The £399 price tag may seem expensive, but if you compare it to the competition it's actually fairly reasonable. If you've got the money to spend, and you want the most capable PDA on the market, then the e570 is still the one to go for.

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DIGITAL PROJECTORS

**1** NEC VT45

The new NEC VT45 offers very acceptable image quality for an affordable sub-£2,000 price tag. While it generates plenty of noise, if you don't need perfect image quality the Eco-mode facility cuts this to an acceptable level. Power is also preserved in this mode, doubling lamp life to 2,000 hours. NEC projectors are known for their excellent image quality, and provided you don't stray from 800x600 resolution, the sterling colour scheme and solid image definition are very much in keeping with this tradition. Its manual lens shift capability allows you to alter the picture position without physically moving the projector, and aspect ratio and colour settings are handled by an intuitive remote control. The



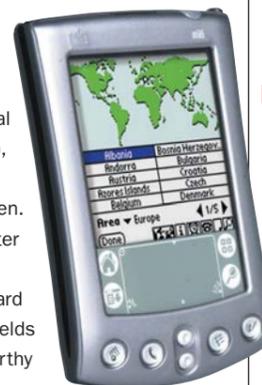
Epson EMP-505 is a better-specified projector, but the VT45 offers strong image quality for over £500 less.

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PERSONAL DIGITAL ASSISTANTS

**2** Palm m505

Palm remains in the number two spot for another month with its m505. Almost identical to the m500 (see August 01 for review), this model gains a crucial edge over its sibling by the inclusion of a colour screen. It communicates via USB, providing faster data transfer and simpler connectivity. Overall, the Palm m505 sets the standard that all the other Palm OS-based handhelds have to beat, and continues to be a worthy winner of our Recommended award.



**3** Compaq iPaq H3850

Previous versions of Compaq's iPaq PDA (personal digital assistant) have proved popular with consumers and corporate buyers alike, and the H3850 is no different. It has a gorgeously vivid 240x320mm, 16bit screen, which ensures good image quality. Its speed is provided by a 206MHz StrongARM processor, coupled with 64MB of RAM and 32MB of onboard ROM. It comes with an impressively wide range of software applications, and only the price keeps the H3850 from the top spot: at £449 it's the second most expensive device in the chart.



**4** Palm m125

The m125 slides neatly into the middle of the Palm range between the m500 and the m105. If you like the SD (secure digital) expansion capabilities of the m500 but aren't looking to spend quite so much, then the Palm m125 is the answer. Its capable hardware specification offers the same 33MHz Dragonball VZ processor and 8MB of RAM as well. Its £170 price tag reflects its target market, aiming at the undecided PDA (personal digital assistant) user who wants more upgradability than the m105 for less than the m500.



**5** Handspring Visor Pro

The Visor Pro is a mid- to high-end PDA (personal digital assistant) that offers excellent value for money, costing only £229 – £43 cheaper than the Palm m500 with twice its 8MB of memory. The rest of its hardware line-up is pretty standard – a 33MHz DragonBall VZ processor, rechargeable lithium-ion battery, USB synchronisation cradle and a Springload slot.



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DIGITAL PROJECTORS

**2** Epson EMP-505

After an 11 month spell at the top of our chart, the EMP-505 is finally toppled by NEC's low-priced new entry. However, for the best quality at any price the EMP-505 still has it. Epson's EasyMP technology lends a welcome dash of flair. Like many digital projectors, this model comes with a PC Card slot. This allows users to download presentations and carry them on a memory card, rather than having to lug around a laptop as well. The EMP-505 contains all the tools and help functions that you could need, and the remote control is simple to use. Its image quality is good, with sharp definition and a refined but vibrant colour palette, guaranteeing a warm reception for your presentations.



**3** CTX PS-5100

Although the price of a high-quality projector has almost halved in the last 12 months, the move towards affordable sub-£1,000 models has been less pronounced. Thankfully, the £1,275 PS-5100 – CTX's first new projector in two years – marks a step in the right direction. You don't get a wealth of options, but the hardware specifications are solid, and the brightness of 1,000 Ansi lumens is surprising in such a budget projector. The picture isn't the largest you can get and resolution support is confined to 800x600. However, despite these faults, the CTX is good enough to display clear and uncluttered PowerPoint presentations, and the video output is extremely palatable.



**4** NEC MultiSync LT155

The MultiSync LT155 offers a superior combination of portability and performance. This former Best Buy projector boasts a healthy brightness rating of 1,200 Ansi lumens but, by dropping the setting to 970 Ansi lumens, lamp life can be extended by as much as 1,000 hours. Considering its many strengths, the LT155 is extremely reasonably priced. It offers sharp image quality, great portability and plenty of image-adjustment features.



**5** Epson EMP-800

Until this month, the Epson EMP-505 topped our digital projectors chart with an irresistible combination of portability and performance. The EMP-800 offers something of a contrast, having more sizeable dimensions and substantial weight. The high brightness rating could attract buyers but the EMP-800 can't justify its £3,799 price tag.

